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CAPITAL REPORT

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 — The high pressure artists in the Crusade for Freedom and its operating organization, Free Europe Committee, are considerably agitated over the columns I have been writing.

They are fearful that the sponsors will begin asking questions, and by way of combatting such a possibility, they have circulated a document of purported answers to various statements of mine.

One of these has to do with some criticisms of Radio Free Europe by my friend, Archduke Otto of Hapsburg, who told me that he tuned in Radio Free Europe on one occasion and from the material that was broadcast, thought it was the Communist Radio Prague.

The answer given to this is:

"Archduke Otto has, from the beginning, been unfriendly to RFE for the simple reason that RFE has refused, steadfastly,

to become involved in exile politics of whatever shade."

FEELING HE MIGHT be interested in knowing what was being said about him, I sent this comment to the Archduke at his home in Europe. By return mail I received a carbon copy of a letter which he wrote to the president of Radio Free Europe, Lt. General Willis D. Crittenberger, in New York City.

He quotes the above statement and then comments as follows:

"You might remember that we had a talk exactly on that subject this Spring in New York. You might further remember the talk which I gave at the Calvin Bullock Forum sometime previously, which talked to our meeting.

"It has always been my contention that Radio Free Europe ought to have stayed much more aloof from exile politics for the very simple reason that I have contended, ever since the occupation of Hungary by the Soviets, that Hungarian domestic policies would have to rest until such time when the country is liberated and hence

has to settle its own future according to its lights and in the fullness of its national sovereignty.

"I must therefore state, regretfully, that the publication of Crusade for Freedom is the exact contrary to the truth.

THIS SEEMS to dispose of the matter from a factual standpoint, and if General Crittenberger ever sees the letter, it may enlighten the gentleman as to some of the things that are going on in his organization.

But it leaves open the broader question of why the paid Ivy League cops-and-robber boys who want to save their jobs, are serving up such statements.

I've seen the pattern before. The theory is that it would never get back to source, and thus never be denied. Except this time, the theory backfired.

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